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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: February 7, 2008
RESUBMITTED: March 6, 2008

Memorandum to the Director

Information: Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Order to Regulate Use, Black Lake State Forest Campground, Cheboygan County; Prohibit the Operation of Off Road Vehicles within the Lower Unit Campground
Land Use Order of the Director, Amendment No. 2 of 2008

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994, PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director to issue orders to implement land use rules.

Discussion and Background:

Black Lake State Forest Campground consists of two distinct units that are separated topographically but connected by a county road, Eisen Trail. The Lower Unit has 17 campsites and lies on a flat, narrow parcel between Black Lake and the base of a steep bluff. Sites within this area are highly desired due to the proximity to the lake, but are typically small and closely spaced to its adjacent neighbor. Sites within this Unit have historically been occupied by families with children and fishermen camping in tents and small trailers. The Upper Unit has 33 campsites and overlooks Black Lake and the Lower Unit along the bluff's ridgeline. Adjacent to Black Lake Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Trail, the Upper Unit campsites afford trail riders who are also campers, the larger sites that are needed to accommodate ORV users' trailers and additional equipment.

Last year, when the new fee structure was put into place for state forest campgrounds, it established a tiered rate system that established higher fees for semi-modern, equestrian and ORV campgrounds. A Director's Order limiting all equestrian campers camping within designated campgrounds to those designated equestrian campgrounds and trail camps was approved at the time of this fee increase. Similar limitations for ORV campers were not pursued at that time.

With the enactment of the tiered camping fees, the fees for Black Lake's two units have been defined differently. The Upper Unit sites were identified as an ORV campground with higher camping charges. The combination of higher camping rates at the Upper

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Order to Regulate Use, Black Lake State Forest Campground, Cheboygan County; Prohibit the Operation of Off Road Vehicles within the Lower Unit Campground Unit, with no restrictions on ORV use to this area, has resulted in all campers vying for the less expensive Lower Unit campsites. This has resulted in an increase of user conflicts, overcrowding in the Lower Unit, increased resource damage and reduced revenues for the State.

Proposal:

Section 4.13(4) will restrict the operation of ORVs within the Lower Unit of Black Lake State Forest Campground.

Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information on February 7, 2008 at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's January 28, 2008, calendar and may be eligible for approval on March 6, 2008.

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management

Kelley D. Smith, Chief
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Rodney Stokes, Acting Chief
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Armind S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy

Dennis Fedewa
Chief Deputy

LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Amendment No. 2 of 2008

By authority conferred on the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by Section 504 of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being section 324.504 of the Michigan Compiled Laws and in accordance with R 299.671 and R 299.922 of the Michigan Administrative Code, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources orders that the following order of the Land Use Orders of the Director shall read as follows:

4.13 Certain state-owned lands, Cheboygan county, camping, wheeled motorized vehicles, prohibited conduct.

Order 4.13. A person shall not do any of the following on the described state-owned lands, Cheboygan county

(1) Camp or use wheeled motorized vehicles, except on the marked and designated Michigan cross country cycle trail, within the NW1/4 of the NW1/4 of section 15, and the NE1/4 of the NE1/4 of section 16, T35N R2W

(2) Operate a motorized vehicle which is greater than 50 inches in width on the posted scramble area in sections 1 and 12, T36N R1E

(3) Enter, use or occupy including operate a wheeled, motorized vehicle on the closed forest road located in the NE1/4 of the NE1/4 of section 11, T36N R1E

(4) Operate a wheeled motorized vehicle, except for those properly registered under 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.1 et seq., on land 100' to either side of the extension of Eisen Trail from the campground gate then west to the end of state land within the S1/2 of the NW1/4, section 24, T36N R1E, commonly known as the Lower Unit of Black Lake State Forest Campground.

This order may be posted on, or after March 7, 2008.

Issued on this 6th day of March, 2008.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director